



## **EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF MULTIPLE CATCH TRAPS IN AND AROUND FOOD PLANTS AND OTHER COMMERCIAL FACILITIES**

Interior trapping for rodent control is designed as a supplement and partner to tight sealing of the plant, and the exterior baiting and sanitation program. In many plants, there will be few, if any, rodents caught inside the plant and this is as it should be. Nevertheless, it would be irresponsible to fail to have protection against any rodents that might enter or be carried in with materials. Multiple catch traps also can be used outdoors around perimeters and on rooftops.

The incoming product inspectors must use flashlights and, if necessary, black lights to try to find any rodents hiding within a shipment. Rodents are more likely to enter with bagged material or boxed material that is "Chimney Packed" with a void in the middle. Such items must receive additional inspection.

The key entry points in most structures will be the fork lift ramp doors, rail dock doors or any other doors that are at ground level. Do not overlook penetration points for pipes and electrical wires. Traps should be placed indoors on either side of interior doors within 15 feet of the door. Place a second set of traps about 15 feet further into the plant to catch any mice that missed the initial traps. Traps should also be used outdoors on either side of the doorways to supplement the perimeter prevention program. These areas and trap placements should be highlighted on the plot plan.

The perimeter control program must include an absolute foliage-free barrier of at least 3 feet from the structure.

Review the entire facility for areas that mice favor. These areas include:

- Available food
- Available shelter
- Dark and quiet areas
- Proximity to entrances
- Areas where mice have been caught before
- Employee locker areas
- Sprinkler rooms
- Loading docks

There is no need to bait traps. The presence of shelter behind the opening is the attraction.

Placement of traps in food and non-food areas should be along the walls at intervals of 15 to 40 feet depending on probable infestations and availability of placement. Traps are needed regularly in these areas but the density and specific location will change to reflect conditions. Placing a glue trap in the catch chamber of the trap provides excellent monitoring for crawling and flying insects.

A record of regular trap positions should be recorded on a plot plan and should be continuously updated. Whenever a catch is made, a small red X should be placed on the plot plan. Over a period of a year or more, this simple visual record will show graphically where the most mice were caught. The reasons for the catches will normally be evident. These entry points should now be corrected. Clients are willing to spend whatever dollars are needed to correct a problem if they are convinced of the necessity.

## **PREPARATION OF NEW TRAPS:**

- Inspect the new trap for any signs of obvious shipping damage.
- Check the tripping action\* by winding the trap a few turns, then firmly tap the bottom of the trap. \*(Excludes Pro-Ketch®)
- Attach service label or punch card where technicians will date, initial or punch as they service the traps.
- Assign a number to the trap as it is placed in the plant. This will correspond with the number on the plot plan. If it is a new installation, write the number on the plot plan.

## **PRECAUTIONS FOR HANTAVIRUS:**

1. Do not sweep or vacuum in areas where dead rodents are found.
2. Disinfect all rodents, rodent traps and the area where dead rodents are found. (1 ½ cups bleach per gallon of water for 5-10 minutes).
3. Protective clothing includes disposable suits, rubber gloves, hepa filter, respirator, boots and goggles.